

House Resolution 413 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Hanner of the 148th

A RESOLUTION

1 To dedicate certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

2 **PART I**

3 WHEREAS, Harry H. Eason was born on August 15, 1915, and he spent his career as a
4 superintendent for H.G. Smith Construction Company building bridges throughout south
5 Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1956, he moved his family to Tifton, where his company had been awarded
7 the contract to construct bridges for Interstate Highway 75 from Tifton to Ashburn, and Mr.
8 Eason was assigned the task of supervising the construction of those bridges; and

9 WHEREAS, he was known to work as hard as any of his crew in the construction project and
10 each of the bridges was constructed on time and the work was approved without correction;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, many of the bridges he built were of a complicated design which were even
13 more difficult to construct in the days before computers; and

14 WHEREAS, it is only fitting that a bridge be named for such a renowned bridge builder as
15 Mr. Harry H. Eason.

16 **PART II**

17 WHEREAS, on a day in the 1880s, at least 15 years before the Wright Brothers' famous
18 flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Micajah Clark Dyer rode his "apparatus for navigating
19 the air" — the term airplane would not be coined for decades — down a slip on Rattlesnake
20 Mountain in Union County, Georgia, and flew low over a meadow on his farm in the
21 Choestoe community near Blairsville; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Dyer, who was born in South Carolina on July 23, 1822, and who farmed
2 in Union County, Georgia, to support his large family, received his only formal education in
3 a one-room school, but despite this limitation developed a reputation as a true genius because
4 of his many inventions; and

5 WHEREAS, most of Mr. Dyer's inventions have been lost in the veil of time, but it is known
6 that he equipped his house with running water, built an efficient water-powered grist mill,
7 and invented a "perpetual motion" machine that could power devices; but his most famous
8 invention was his flying machine, for which he was awarded a patent in September, 1874,
9 and which he continued to improve and refine until his death on January 26, 1891; and

10 WHEREAS, stories of his flying machine were kept alive through Dyer family oral tradition
11 until 2004, when, thanks to the modern invention of the Internet, family members were able
12 to identify the 1874 patent and obtain a copy, proof that the machine had, in fact, been built
13 and that sophisticated plans had been filed with the United States Patent Office, although the
14 flight from Rattlesnake Mountain over the meadow remains unverified local lore; and

15 WHEREAS, although the flying machine invented in the remote North Georgia mountains
16 never made it into the history books, family history indicates that Mr. Dyer's widow, Morena
17 Owenby Dyer, sold the machine and plans to the Redwine Brothers in Atlanta, who, in turn,
18 sold them to the Wright Brothers of Ohio, so it is probable that Micajah Clark Dyer did,
19 indirectly, contribute to the first human flight.

20 **PART III**

21 WHEREAS, Mr. J. Lucius Black was born on July 27, 1915, in Webster County, Georgia,
22 a community to which he was dedicated throughout his distinguished career as a public
23 servant; and

24 WHEREAS, during his service in the House of Representatives of the State of Georgia from
25 1945 to 1948 and from 1951 to 1972, Mr. Black was regarded as a man of outstanding
26 character with an exceptional understanding of state and county government that was highly
27 valued and respected by his fellow members in the General Assembly; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Black continued his public service as sole commissioner of Webster County
29 from 1977 to 1990 and then as chairman of the reconstituted county commission from 1991
30 to 1996; and

1 WHEREAS, in the course of his career, he demonstrated great energy, intelligence, ability,
2 and dedication to the betterment of the State of Georgia and the quality of life of its citizens;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, with the passing of Mr. J. Lucius Black on October 18, 2004, the State of
5 Georgia lost a most estimable citizen and statesman.

6 **PART IV**

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
8 GEORGIA that the bridge on Chula Brookfield Road over Interstate Highway 75 in Turner
9 County, Georgia, is hereby dedicated as the Harry H. Eason Bridge in honor of this
10 distinguished Georgian, and the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to
11 erect and maintain appropriate signs so dedicating the bridge.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of Georgia Highway 180 in Union County
13 from the intersection with US Highway 129 to the Towns County line be dedicated the
14 Micajah Clark Dyer Parkway, and the Department of Transportation is authorized and
15 directed to place and maintain appropriate markers designating the Micajah Clark Dyer
16 Parkway.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body join together to express their
18 deepest regret at the passing of Mr. J. Lucius Black and resolve that the bridge on SR 45 that
19 spans the Kinchafoonee Creek in Webster County is dedicated as the J. Lucius Black Bridge,
20 and the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and maintain
21 appropriate signs to identifying the bridge.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of
24 Transportation, Harry H. Eason, the family of Micajah Clark Dyer, and the family of Mr. J.
25 Lucius Black and the Webster County Commission.